ON THIS WE ARE AGREED

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Women's Suffrage and the House of Lords.

By the time this number of THE COMMON CAUSE is in the hands of our readers, the fate of various important amendments to the Representation of the People Bill will have been decided, and we shall know whether the House of Lords intends to support the judgment of the House of Commons or will attempt to overthrow it.

The battle was begun by the Anti-Suffragists on Tuesday, January 8th, when Lord Weardale moved an instruction to the Committee of the House of Lords to omit from the Bill all the provisions which had not been passed by a unanimous vote of the Speaker's Conference. Lord Curzon, in an incontrovertible speech, showed that this would be an impossible and disastrous attempt, and the instruction was withdrawn.

On Wednesday, January 9th, the House came to the Women's Suffrage Clause in Committee, and Lord Loreburn moved that it should be omitted from the Bill. A debate followed which seemed to disprove Lord Buckmaster's assertion that the arguments for and against Women's Suffrage were worn so thin by long discussion that it was almost impossible to restate them with effect. The fact is that there *are* no arguments against Women's Suffrage, and never have been any, except the old reactionary argument which is used against any extension of democracy, that it is not good that people should govern themselves. Lord Loreburn, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, and Lord Lansdowne made full play with this ancient weapon. Lord Lansdowne showed himself as a determined opponent of Women's Suffrage, and made a long speech which appeared to have considerable effect on the House. Lord Haldane had, however, somewhat forestalled him by demonstrating that all that could be said against Women's Suffrage now had been said in former years, not only against extensions of the franchise, but against democratic rights everywhere, including the first claims to self-government of our American Colonies. Lord Buckmaster, though he had asserted that nothing new could be said about Women's Suffrage, put the arguments for granting it now with the thoughtful and moving eloquence that is always new. Lord Burnham also stated the case with reasoned strength and completeness and splendid freshness. He made it perfectly plain that Women's Suffrage was the chief aim for which the Speaker's Conference had existed, and that to throw it out now would be to cast contempt on the whole work of that body. Lastly, the Bishop of London, in chosen and vigorous words, showed how absolutely necessary it was for the country that women should have votes in time to help in social reconstruction, and drove home the unanswerable argument, "We must enfranchise women now because we can't do our work without them." The debate was then adjourned, and as we go to press the issue is in the balance.

The Insurance of Married Women.

The National Health Insurance Bill has been read a second time in the House of Lords. Miss Ruth Young said in our issue of November 30th, that she found it is easier to grasp the astounding fact that Sirius is fifty billions of miles away from the earth than to grasp the meaning of this Bill. Apparently there are other people of her opinion! On Friday, Lord Knutsford defied anyone to understand the Bill, "even with the closest study and the most acute headache," and added that, in the length of its sentences, it reminded him of Gladstone and Henry James combined. One thing is, however, plain—that is, that women were not sufficiently consulted before the proposal to give a marriage benefit of £2 instead of maternity benefit was framed. The correspondence in THE COMMON CAUSE has shown that this is a matter about which it is possible for organised women to take different views, but there is undoubtedly a considerable volume of support for the protest made in our columns by Miss Ruth Young, supported by Miss Margaret Bondfield, and others, and embodied in the important memorandum recently issued by the Women's Co-operative Guild.

The co-operative women have a special right to speak on this question. They not only have a membership of 27,000, but that membership is chiefly among married working women, and they have for some years made the promotion of the national care of maternity their chief citizen-work. Their objections to the proposed Marriage Benefit are that large sums of money contributed for purposes of national health will be diverted to an extraneous object; that the £2 which it is proposed to give to women on marriage will not be half as useful to them or to the community as if it came to them in their first confinement; and that half of this sum represents money now actually used for maternity purposes, from which about £200,000 a year will thus be withdrawn. They also deprecate the fresh powers which will be given to industrial societies whose interest it may be to persuade women to invest the money in life policies, &c., from which the women themselves will receive no benefit.

Both Lord Knutsford and Lord Sydenham moved a protest against the Marriage Benefit Clause of the Bill on the second reading, and we understand that when, on January 17th, it reaches the Committee stage in the House of Lords, an amendment will be moved in the sense of the Co-operative Guild's memorandum.

The Treasures of Humanity.

The proposal to take over the British Museum for the use of the Air Board has been met with such a storm of protest that we hope there can be no doubt it will be abandoned. The bare fact of such a proposal being made gives a shock from which it is not easy to recover. Have our rulers no care for the treasures of humanity? It is no answer to say that some of the precious things will be safer elsewhere. If so, they ought to have been removed long ago; but the one consideration in moving them or keeping them where they are should be their safety. The British Museum and the National Gallery at least ought to be sacred from the claims of the bureaucracy. The whole of the rest of London is left!

The "Common Cause" Hut No. 1

is doing a wonderful work at **COVENTRY.** It now has **OVER 1,100 MEMBERS** and is the largest and best equipped **Y.W.C.A.** hut ever erected.

The "Common Cause" Hut No. 2

in **FRANCE** is the largest **Y.W.C.A.** hut on the Western Front. **Although** only recently provided, it is crowded every day, and is a perfect boon to the girls.

The Extraordinary Success

of the "COMMON CAUSE" Huts No. 1 and 2 has encouraged the Editor to appeal to the readers of this journal for money to provide and maintain another hut, which is now urgently needed on SALISBURY PLAIN, for the use of 200—300 W.A.A.C. girls, working in two special branches of the service. This hut, which is to be known as the

"Common Cause" HUT No. 3

must be erected within a month or six weeks from now. It will contain RECREATION ROOM, LIGHT CANTEEN, and sleeping accommodation for two permanent Y.W.C.A. workers.

The TOTAL COST

of providing and equipping this hut is estimated to be

£750

towards which sum, immediate donations are earnestly invited.

PLEASE SEND YOUR "BIT" TO-DAY!

Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be addressed to the Editor of the "Common Cause," Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

Y.W.C.A. Subscription Form.

*Date*_____

To the Editor of "The Common Cause,"
Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

I enclose £ as my subscription to "THE COMMON CAUSE HUT, No. 3."

*Name*_____

*Address*_____

_____

SUPPORT OUR APPEALS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when sending donations.

Women's National Service.

Recruiting has now begun for the Women's Royal Naval Air Service, the headquarters of which are at 15, Great Stanhope Street, where a certain number of officers are already starting work under Dame Katherine Furse. Miss Edith Crowdy has been appointed Deputy-Director, and Mrs. Dakyns and Mrs. Cane Assistant-Directors. Miss E. Ivy Matheson, who has rendered valuable services to the Fleet as honorary secretary of the Ladies' Emergency Committee of the Navy League since August, 1914, has resigned this position to join the W.R.N.A.S.

At present only some 10,000 to 12,000 recruits are called for, and it is not likely that any will be wanted for foreign service. The pay will be the same as that of the W.A.A.C., the rates of which are now being revised with a view to certain increases, and recruiting will take place in the same way—through the Labour Exchanges and through the existing W.A.A.C. Huts. Members of the W.R.N.A.S. will be required to sign on for the duration of the war. Officers will be recruited through the Professional Women's Register, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, S.W. 1.

The work will be of many different kinds, and there will be a good deal of night work. Chauffeurs, wireless telegraphists, clerks, cooks, and waitresses for officers' mess, workers at air stations, and for repairing and cleaning aeroplanes, will be wanted, and training will be given in certain branches. Four or five hostels for recruits will be opened almost at once.

War Honours for Women.

Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will be interested to learn that Miss Kathleen Burke, who has done such splendid work for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, is among the women who have received War Honours. She has been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire. Among the other women who have received the same honour are Miss A. M. Anderson, Principal Lady Inspector of Factories; Miss Laurence Alma-Tadema, Joint Founder of the Polish Relief Fund for Great Britain; Miss F. H. Durham, Chief Woman Inspector at the Central Offices of the Employment Department, Ministry of Labour; and Mrs. Leach, Controller of Inspections, W.A.A.C.

Among the Officers of the Order of the British Empire are Miss Mary Allen, Chief Superintendent, Women's Police Service; Miss M. Damer Dawson, Commandant, Women's Police Service; Miss H. C. Ellis, Commandant, Motor-Transport Section, Women's Legion; Miss M. Spencer, Central Women's Employment Bureau for the Relief of the Professional Classes; Miss M. M. Stevenson, Unit Administrator, W.A.A.C.; Miss E. M. Trotter, Recruiting Controller, W.A.A.C.

OUR THIRD "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

The hut for which we are now collecting is to be, not for France, as was at first intended, but for members of the W.A.A.C. stationed on Salisbury Plain. They are living in a cold, muddy camp on the very heights of the Plain, surrounded by men's camps. This is seven miles from a station, there are no shops near, and outside the common room at their hutments the girls have absolutely no possibility for recreation when work is over. For many months they have been waiting for the Y.W.C.A. to come, and the writer has intensified their need for some home-like place of rest and recreation such as have been provided for the troops in the surrounding camps.

It is hoped that the hut will be ready by the middle of February, and funds are urgently needed to enable the work to be carried out at once. It will cost £750, and will consist of a large recreation-room, two bedrooms for workers, bathrooms, &c., and a small kitchen. There will also be a light canteen, where tea, coffee, and buns can be obtained; but the Association does not feel justified in providing substantial food, as the Army authorities provide full rations for the girls. Notepaper and stamps will also be sold Two workers will sleep at the hut, which will always be free to girls within the hours that military regulations permit.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	147	11	7	Mrs. Holland...	10	0	0
Mrs. Preston	1	1	0	Miss J. Brooke	10	0	
Miss A. M. Milward	1	0	0				
Miss Dorothy Scott	10	0			£160	12	7

Further donations should be sent to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In a letter to Mrs. Fawcett, telling her that Suffragists in the United States are watching the progress of our Representation of the People Bill with the greatest anxiety, Mrs. Ida Husted Harper gives some interesting particulars of the campaign in New York, and the prospects of the Federal Amendment, of the fate of which we may expect news shortly. She writes :—

"New York women are enfranchised for all time, and the victory equals all combined that have ever been gained in the United States. It has changed the entire status of our movement from every point of view, and the 'antis' have now no hope except to defeat us in Congress this winter, and thus delay the nation-wide movement.

"We are all rejoicing over the action of the Lower House yesterday in voting to submit the Prohibition Amendment by 282 to 128—twenty-five more than the required two-thirds majority. It was a surprise even to the most optimistic of its advocates. We were anxious to have it out of the way before our own came up. We wanted to defeat the 'antis' in their attempt to rush ours to a vote before Congress adjourned for the holidays. It will go to a vote some time between January 7th and 10th.

"If our Bill should go through the Lower House, it would probably be voted on very soon by the Senate, and would stand a good chance there. If it should be defeated in the Lower House, it could still be voted on in the Senate, and if successful, could be again referred to the Representatives. The action of the National Convention in resolving unanimously, in case we are defeated, to go at once into the elections for members of Congress next summer, has created a panic in that body. They are pretty sure that we could defeat enough Republicans or Democrats to throw the balance of power to the other party, although, of course, we should make the contest on absolutely non-partisan lines.

"The situation is very interesting here now, and although we are all nearly killing ourselves with the work necessary to meet the situation, we are more than willing to do it.

"There was a combination of favourable circumstances in New York which has never existed before in any State; but the basis of our victory was our *splendid* organisation and, as one result of it, the petition of 1,015,000 women. Next to that, or perhaps ahead of it, was the immense military service that has been rendered by the women.

"The vote was unquestionably non-partisan, but our greatest opposition was the Republican Party, which represents capital and corporations. The vote will be non-partisan in Congress. We have *more* friends there among the Republicans than the Democrats, so far as members go, but we have the Democratic Government almost solidly behind us, led by President Wilson. Your editorial, 'Hail Columbia!' was a wonderfully correct presentation.

"As New York members of the National Board have not yet returned from Washington, I have not been able to talk with them about Miss Fraser, but the members of our staff here who have come back speak of her most enthusiastically."

News from New Zealand.

Great satisfaction is felt by the women of New Zealand on the passing of a Social Hygiene Bill dealing with venereal disease. The Bill as first drafted by the Government contained some obnoxious clauses, providing for compulsory detention of prostitutes and their associates for treatment, and conferring autocratic powers on the Minister of Public Health. Though ostensibly framed to deal equally between men and women, it was felt that the Bill could not but operate unfairly. The leading women of New Zealand at once opposed these clauses, and, supported by a large number of the medical men, made such strong representations that the Bill was re-drafted. Now it contains no compulsory clauses, but penalises those who do not seek qualified treatment, either at their own expense or by means of the facilities which the Minister is empowered to provide in the general hospitals. The Minister will appoint men and women as health patrols to safeguard young people; he also takes steps to educate the public on sex hygiene. The infection of another person by one aware of his or her condition is made an offence—a sound principle, if difficult to enforce.

Six o'clock closing has been carried in the New Zealand Parliament by a large majority. No liquor can be sold, after December 1st, between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. This applies to clubs as well as hotels. There has never been any liquor allowed in the New Zealand canteens.

Women and Church Councils.

The place of women in the Church was discussed by ecclesiastical writers as early as 200. In the Early Church of the first two centuries, women occupied a place in the Church's ministry from which by degrees they were slowly expelled; but in the early Middle Ages there was a revival of the realisation of the value of women in the ministry of the Church. Everyone knows that S. Hilda of Whitby ruled over a double monastery of men and women for thirty years, and took her place in the Synod. "It was not unusual in early Christian times for abbesses to rule over houses of men as well as of women. The abbess held the same rank as an abbot; she presided occasionally over important Church Synods, as the Synod of Whitby; within the monastery she exercised the power of a bishop, and bore a crosier" ("Women of Cell and Cloister," E. Rolt Wheeler).

"In Kildare the authority of the abbess probably superseded that of the bishop. Kildare preserved down to a comparatively recent period the double succession of abbot-bishops and of abbesses, and, what is more, the annalists take care to record the names of all the abbesses as well as the abbots. This no doubt arose from the fact that at least in public estimation the lady abbesses of Kildare enjoyed a kind of primacy over all the nuns in Ireland, and moreover were in some sense independent of episcopal jurisdiction, if, indeed, the bishops of Kildare were not to some extent dependent upon them" ("Ireland's Ancient Schools and Scholars," Dr. Healy). This ascendancy of women continued to the thirteenth century, and was authorised by Papal regulations. S. Catherine of Siena, the dyer's daughter, was the guide and counsellor of the weak and vacillating Gregory XI., who followed her advice in spite of the opposition of the whole College of Cardinals, and "her hand it was that steered the barque of Peter back to Rome."

It seems a far cry from this honourable position accorded to women in the Church to that which has prevailed since the Reformation. Puritanism (with the exception of the Society of Friends) has been inimical to women—at any rate till within quite recent times. Indeed the view held by many priests and laymen to-day with regard to women is that of Milton's famous line in "Paradise Lost"—"he for God only, she for God in him"—though probably they would express it differently. A recent correspondence in the *Church Times* shows that there are still people who think that laywomen are inferior to laymen, and have no right to share their duties or perform any of their functions. Women are beginning to find out that they must convince the Church that they *are* part of the laity, and not a kind of appendage having neither rights nor responsibilities.

The Church of England for the past 220 years has had no corporate voice. Even Convocation, which is composed of Bishops and clergy, does not represent the whole mind of the Church, since the clergy are only partially represented, and the laity not at all. In order in some sort to remedy this, a consultative body known as the Representative Church Council was formed in 1904, and consists of the Canterbury and York Convocations and the two Houses of Laymen from these provinces. In 1914 the Council drew up a scheme for the formation of Parochial Church Councils, and the eligibility of women to elect to and serve upon these was recognised by a majority in each of the Houses. It is on this scheme that the recommendations for lay representation put forward by the Archbishops' Committee on the Relations between Church and State have been based. The Report recommends that the laity shall be represented (i.) in Parochial Church Councils; (ii.) in Ruri-decanal Conferences; (iii.) in Diocesan Conferences; and (iv.) in the Lay House of the Church Council. Except in the case of Parochial Church Councils, all representatives must be of the male sex. Women equally with men, if duly qualified, can sit on and elect to the Parochial Church Council.

The Bishops, however, have declared themselves dissatisfied with the position given to women under this scheme, and the whole Report is undergoing consideration by a Committee of the Representative Church Council. It is to be hoped that their labours will result in the giving to women the right to serve on all Church Councils equally with men. Meanwhile, women must possess their souls in patience. Although they have no statutory powers, Parochial Church Councils exist in many parishes, and women are already serving on some of these; but at present such Councils are only called into being at the will of the incumbent of the parish.

The Central Committee of the National Mission in July 1916, passed a resolution urging on the Church the importance of securing adequate representation of women upon its conferences, councils, and assemblies, recognising that the "spiritual aims and ideals of the Women's movement . . . are in harmony with the teaching of Christ and His Church as to the equality of men and women in the sight of God—equality in privilege, equality in calling, equality in opportunity of service." They also at the same time passed a resolution urging upon the Bishops "the importance of giving definite directions as to the best ways of using the services and receiving the message of women speakers, whether in Church or elsewhere." When in accordance with this the Bishops of London and of Chelmsford announced their intention of allowing women to speak in church under certain conditions, such extraordinary hostility was aroused in certain quarters that the two prelates subsequently revoked their decision. In the beginning of 1917 a committee was appointed to consider the whole question of women's ministry in the Church, and its report has not yet been received.

The question of the admission of women to the priesthood is totally distinct from the right of laywomen to preach or to serve on Church Councils. The chief argument advanced against it is that the priesthood has from the beginning universally throughout Christendom been restricted to the male sex, and therefore the whole of Church tradition and precedent bars the way. Nevertheless, it is never safe to argue that because a thing never has been done it never should be done, and it may well be that the whole Church may in the future be guided by the Holy Spirit to see that because "in Christ there is neither male nor female," therefore He may give to women also the vocation to the ministerial priesthood.

C. E. CLARK.

Some New Occupations for Women.

XII.—THE WOMEN'S POLICE SERVICE.

In coming to the end of another year of work in the training and organising of a body of Policewomen, it has been very helpful and encouraging to take a brief survey over the three years and three months which have passed. It was in August, 1914, that the first—what seemed then wild—project was mooted, that a real, live, uniformed Policewoman should walk the streets of this country, invite public gaze, approbation, or disapproval, and lay claim to recognition as the colleague of a large force of male predecessors in police work.

In August, 1914, it seemed at last possible to put into concrete form the theories which women reformers for fifty years past have formulated as necessary for a certain section of social well-being in this country—the existence of a force of educated, trained, uniformed, as well as plain clothes women which should be able to deal with the preservation of law and order among their fellow-women. In December, 1917, it has come to pass that many hundreds of these women exist, and that they have proved that they are able to perform not only the duties which were theorised for them by women reformers in the past, but also that they are capable of undertaking a large proportion of emergency work so necessary, not only as war-time work, but as tending to prove that the policewoman can be used as a "General Officer" for public service in the same manner as can the policeman.

In 1914, I think it would have shocked even the most broad-minded Chief Constable to be told that he could with perfect confidence hand over the sanctuary of his Police Station to the care of a Woman Police Sergeant for three hours in the busiest time of the day. December, 1917, marks the sixth month in which this duty has been performed by a member of our Service stationed in a large provincial town. She writes to us that she finds her work as Station Sergeant both interesting and instructive, that she owes much to the careful training which she has received from the hands of the Detective-Inspector and the Chief Constable himself, that her male colleagues are now quite "used" to her, and that they collaborate on the best of terms. So quickly have the grinding stones of war powdered the prejudices which for years have kept women from being allowed to show what they were capable of doing, and to contribute their share of State Service.

There are now towns which have had their Policewomen for over two years whose officials would not dream of allowing male constables to undertake investigations of a delicate nature among women and children—investigations which need searching questions into all the intimate details of a woman's life, be she mother or child. There are Chief Constables who are fast

recognising that to use a trained Policewoman on the streets or to investigate cases at schools or in the children's homes, will mean largely to decrease the number of child criminals who would otherwise come before the Magistrate. The children themselves are learning to know and to trust, as well as to fear, the eye of the woman-in-blue who has ample time to watch their doings, their going and comings, and their delinquencies—those tendencies to evil-doing which must of necessity escape the eye of the man-in-blue, who has to regulate the traffic, or to preserve law and order at the corner of the streets, and has but little time to devote to the street life of the children.

The mother who habitually leaves her child outside the public house night after night, whether it be wet or fine, finds it of little use incessantly to plead over-fatigue as the necessity for a twenty-minutes' "drop o' beer," when the very vigilant Policewoman calls in at the door, "Who is the mother of the baby in pink crying outside?" The girls who are constantly before the Magistrate charged with disorderly conduct or "night walking" feel a friendly tap on the shoulder by a woman in plain clothes who asks them to come and speak to

OFFICERS OF THE HEADQUARTER'S STAFF OF THE WOMEN'S POLICE SERVICE.

the Sergeant across the road, and find that the Sergeant is a woman with a wise smile, who knows their Christian names and all about them; and they often prefer to take her kindly advice, followed up by practical help in the way of obtaining a better means of earning a livelihood, than to be constantly fined or imprisoned for having a good time which has such bitter fruits.

One of our Constables stationed in a large provincial town writes as follows:—

"I have been allowed to visit one or two women in whom I am interested while they have been in prison, which I think is a good thing, if the person herself does not resent the visit. It keeps one in touch with them, and helps them to see that a Policewoman is not just someone who gets them punished and has no further interest in them, and I was very cheered by one girl, who was convicted of being a disorderly prostitute on my evidence. I went to see her in prison, and she said quite happily that she had been thinking I very likely would come and see her. She evidently bore me no grudge, which I think was wonderful of her, and encouraged me a good deal."

We have trained over 2,000 women during the past three years to, at any rate, the beginning of an interest in the laws which affect women and children, and it has been a matter of astonishment for those of us responsible for that training to find how little women know of those laws. I think that among these many hundreds there will be some who will develop new talents and a new interest in the jurisdiction which has heretofore been swayed solely by men over both sexes.

From the Policewoman to the Woman Magistrate there is but one stepping-stone—opportunity. The training of the Policewoman will form the basis for the training of the Woman Magistrate. Her experience in the street life, the home life, the school life of the child, will guide her wisdom and qualities of mercy and discretion when sitting in the Magisterial Chair of the Children's Court. It may be that to her will come the solution of that problem which is becoming more and more acute—the decline and fall of parental control. The qualities which the Policewoman is now learning to develop—accurate observation, accurate evidence, helpful collaboration with male colleagues, dependableness which earns her the trust of the Chief Constable, tact and discretion in dealing with cases, whether in the street, the Police Court, or the prison—all these qualities, when trained and strengthened by years of experience, will enable her to take her place on the Jury or on the Bench.

There are men who still write and speak with horror, whether real or simulated, of women who "know things" concerning their less fortunate sisters. They still think that cases of indecency, of immorality, of crime, should be kept from the sheltered ears of the women who must stay at home to be guarded by men; but we claim that it is our work of the past three years which has proved to us all as no theorising or book-writing could have proved, the absolute necessity that a woman who is to be a useful servant of the State under modern conditions of living shall have a wider trained knowledge of all that human nature is capable of in all walks of life, and that she shall be trained to use this knowledge with tolerance, justice, and intense interest in the betterment of human conditions.

In my retrospective survey I am able to note a great change for the better in the local status of the Policewoman, but it is one which still leaves much to be desired. The conditions of service are still anomalous and unsatisfactory. In some towns the Policewoman is treated as though she were a young Constable on his first beat, when she may be a woman who has had

a previous and responsible position which has given her a knowledge of social conditions which it would take the young Constable another twenty years to gain, if ever.

The disapproval expressed by permanent Home Office Officials against the "swearing-in" of policewomen, and the reasons which they gave—physical unfitness, &c.—have been entirely set aside by Magistrates, Chief Constables, and Scottish Officers of the law. Nearly 200 women have been sworn-in during the past eighteen months, and are working with full powers, and we have had no case of physical unfitness or inability on the part of the Policewoman to carry out the duty of effecting the arrest when necessary. In some towns the Police Authorities are making it a rule to hand the warrant for the arrest of any woman or girl to the Policewoman. In one instance the Policewoman was told to travel a long distance to effect the arrest of a woman of whom the police said she was an "old hand." Minute instructions were given, and many precautions taken. The Policewoman started, armed with handcuffs, only to find awaiting her in the cells of the distant police-station a wretched little woman, who flung herself into her arms with gratitude that a Policewoman had been sent to fetch her, and not a policeman. The two travelled back with no need of handcuffs. The Policewoman's enquiries into the circumstances of the prisoner's life have done much to ameliorate her present conditions.

In some towns the Policewoman who has been "sworn-in" receives the status of an Inspector, with a grant for uniform, but nowhere is she yet qualified to work for a pension. For many reasons it is advisable that a Policewoman should not be rated by any precedent which the male Police Force has initiated. She will always deal with members of her own sex by methods not recognised or used by her male colleagues, and, in my opinion, the force of Policewomen will be more efficient if it is organised and disciplined by its own Women Officers. If it should eventually become a Women's State Service, and create its own precedence, it will, I think, act beneficially for the work which Women Police are able to carry out, but I am now looking much further forward than the first month of 1918. We have gone a long way, but we have yet a long way to go.

It is impossible to emphasise too strongly the necessity for a high standard of training, which should be insisted upon as rigorously as is that for any other public service. Policewomen at work in towns and cities should, from the very nature of their work, be women of good education, and, if possible, should have had previous experience in dealing with their fellow-women, either as hospital nurses, teachers, &c. Policewomen at work in munition factories can be taken from what we call the lesser educated classes; but all Policewomen need qualities of initiative, resource, broadmindedness; they must also be physically sound, high principled, and provided with exceptional references.

The training of Policewomen for towns and cities, or as County Police, is necessarily longer than that needed for work in munition factories: for the training of the former, three months is not too long, but for the training of the latter a month is sufficient. The curriculum includes drill, first-aid, attendance at Police Courts, learning how to give and take evidence, clerical work, learning how to keep and make reports, how to make investigations, the study of those Acts and Laws which especially relate to women and children. The Policewoman used in guarding munition factories needs to add to this list how to search a number of women efficiently, quickly, deftly, and tactfully, what to look for in patrolling and guarding a munition factory, and different details of the technique required. At our Training Headquarters weekly lectures are given on all branches of a Policewoman's duty, and examination both by papers and *viva voce* are passed.

During the training, those Policewomen required by the Ministry of Munitions are paid 25s. a week towards expenses. When appointed, the Constable is paid £2 7s. 6d., Sergeant £2 12s. 6d., Inspector £2 17s. 6d. The Policewomen in the towns are paid according to the decisions of the different Watch Committees. There is at present no settled standard. Some Town Councils and Committees give the Policewomen a salary out of which they must provide their own uniform. Others give them a rate of pay which is augmented by a grant for uniform, for boots, and a war bonus; but at present towns and cities are not paying their women the salary commensurate with the highly technical work which is required of them. It is a matter which, we trust, the experience of the service which they are able to render will remedy.

M. Damer Dawson,
Commandant, Women Police Service.

Milk for the Babies.

By Marion Phillips, D.Sc.(Econ.).

The provision of milk for babies and their mothers, and for all young children, is at all times a matter of national importance. Its importance was never greater than at the present time, and every day the urgency of dealing with it on national lines grows greater. Complete control of its price and distribution is necessary; that control may well be divided between the Ministry of Food and the Municipal Authorities, but no time is to be lost in putting into force a scheme which covers the whole country, and which is backed by the full power of the Ministry of Food.

There are two special difficulties at the moment. One is the result of the scarcity of milk due to difficulties of transport and difficulties of production, together with the temptation, to which the farmer has yielded, to sell his cattle rather than have the trouble and expense of keeping them for the production of milk. The scarcity has, of course, been increased by the demand for home-produced butter and cheese; but while the scarcity creates difficulty, the high wholesale price decided upon last spring by the Board of Agriculture in order to combat the temptation to kill milch cows, has also had the effect of placing milk upon the list of luxuries which the great majority of working people cannot afford to purchase. In numbers of instances people able to afford a limited amount of milk are unable to purchase it; but the vast majority cannot pay for it, and they must go without, whether there is milk or not. Milk, like bread, is a staple food, but it is unfortunately the *only* food for the infant population. There are no substitutes; even for the children from twelve months upwards the food supply has been very seriously affected during the years of the war. The scarcity of sugar, and now the difficulty of procuring fats, makes it all the more important that they should have as full a supply of milk as possible. For the mothers who are nursing their babies the need for milk is well known, but during the war breast-feeding has necessarily been reduced because of the number of women who have gone into wage-earning employment. It is now being still further reduced because of the effect upon the mothers of standing long hours in the cold streets waiting to get food supplies, and because of the anxiety and nerve strain inseparable from our lives in these sad times. It is therefore quite clear that more than ever there is need of action on the part of the Government to secure the most important food supply for the infant population. Pre-war conditions were bad enough; possibly not 50 per cent. of the infants under two years old amongst the working classes had milk as part of their ordinary diet.* But, bad as these conditions were, the present would show a still higher percentage. All who have concerned themselves in any degree with the affairs of working people will have heard on all sides of the difficulties they are now undergoing. One instance which has come to the notice of the present writer expresses the problem before people with small incomes so clearly that it is worth quoting. A young mother writes thus:—"I only describe by own case because it is typical of many. I am twenty-eight years of age; I bear children easily, and nurse them well. I have two babies, one thirteen months old and one six weeks. Although I am a regular customer of three milkmen, and pay cash for what I have, I can often only obtain one pint of milk a day, and never more than one quart. With this quantity I have to supply myself, my husband, and the elder child; I nurse the younger. The elder child consumes quite a pint, and I live in dread that my own milk will go through my being unable to get sufficient milk for myself. Dried milk-foods and ordinary condensed milk are very difficult to get here."† This woman adds that she discussed the question with ten other women in a large nursing home recently, and they all agreed that they would be wrong to bring further children into the world and risk endangering their own and the children's lives. Can the nation risk this reduction of the birth-rate?

While these difficulties are felt by all people of the wage-earning classes, and some of them by all those with small incomes, it is noticeable that, in general, the good customers—the well-to-do people—are able to get their ordinary supplies. If a milkman does make a reduction and divides up what he has amongst his customers, he does it quite irrespective of whether there are children in the family or not.

* The average consumption among working families, according to the Board of Trade, did not reach two pints a head a week.

† A child up to 18 months should have at least one and a-half pints of milk per day, while most nursing mothers need as much as one pint.

The position has been growing rapidly worse during the last couple of months. In the middle of October the War Emergency Workers' National Committee put before the Ministry of Food a complete scheme for dealing with the situation. Their proposals were, shortly, to give priority of supply for infants,* children under five, and nursing mothers; to distribute milk free on application to the Medical Officer of Health, or some other person designated by him, to the mothers of infants under a year old; to make arrangements in the area of every Local Health Authority, with the co-operation of the Food Control Committee, for the organisation of this free distribution, and for suitable arrangements to secure priority of supply; to organise through the Local Education Authorities a supply of milk to all children at the schools at a price of not more than 1d. per half-pint; and, finally, to divide the cost of this supply between the Treasury and the local authority, the former paying 75 per cent. from the vote of credit. This scheme, which was endorsed by a fully representative Labour Conference on December 29th, aims at supplying without any question other than the *existence of the children*, the whole needs of the infant population for milk. It proposes to do this by the simplest methods, and to make it, so far as three-quarters of the expenditure is concerned, a general charge upon the whole community. It does not consider the relative wealth of the family to which the baby belongs. It takes the point of view that the preservation of infant-life is a matter of urgent importance for the whole community, and therefore should be met so far as may be by action on the part of the community. This scheme has been laid before Lord Rhondda, and met by him sympathetically; while Mr. Clynes, speaking at the Labour Conference on December 29th, expressed his complete agreement with it. It is therefore important to see how far the Ministry of Food, with the consent of the War Cabinet, proposes to carry it out. Up to the present, what has been done is to give Local Food Committees power to make arrangements for priority of supply for infants, invalids, &c., but they have been left to exercise this power or not, as they think fit. They have also power to distribute milk at a lower price than the general price of 8d. per quart, and to make special arrangements for distribution to the babies. But it is still entirely within the power of each Local Food Committee to decide whether it shall do anything or nothing. The War Cabinet has agreed that milk may be supplied to necessitous mothers for their babies or themselves at a low charge, or even free; but the word "necessitous" makes the concession of comparatively small value. Authorities putting this scheme into force will be entitled to receive from the Treasury a grant in aid of 50 per cent. of their expenditure—an amount which clearly is not sufficient. The scheme has, however, three cardinal difficulties. It is local, and not national, thereby placing many difficulties in the way of the progressive authority competing for its milk supply with other unprogressive authorities. It also means that the baby in the one town may starve while in another town it may live and prosper. It makes far more complex the difficulty of distribution and transport of milk over the whole country, since the different price and different methods being enforced in each district may turn the source of supply in a new direction.

The optional character of the proposals is the second difficulty which accentuates those just enumerated. It is quite clear from the past history of food administration that compulsion must be applied if there is to be justice in distribution, and just as the Food Control Committees are obliged to enforce the sugar scheme in a uniform manner throughout the country, so must they be obliged to enforce a scheme with regard to milk.

The chief difficulty, however, is that cheap or free milk should only go to the *necessitous* mothers. This reduces the whole scheme to the level of a Poor Law dole. The deep resentment with which working people hear of this proposal is due to their long experience of social charities, whether undertaken by the community or private individuals, in the past. It means a whole machinery of enquiry by superior persons; it means delay, injustice, and hardship, while babies may die for lack of what everybody knows to be the first necessity of their existence. All that is necessary in the view of working people is that the Medical Officer of Health should know of the existence of the baby for whom milk is asked. This information is before him from the registers under the Notification of Births Act, while the statistics for sugar-cards can easily be made available for the same purposes. If every woman who needs milk has first to prove her destitution, there is a Poor Law check of the worst kind upon the progress of infant health. It needs little imagination to realise the deep indignation with which the soldier's wife will regard a scheme which refuses milk for her babies unless she proves destitution; and yet nothing is more certain than that the soldier's wife with her present allowance, at present prices, cannot buy the milk that her babies require. Even apart from the indignation which the proposal creates, it has to be remembered that it will require a very large number of officers to carry it out. Can the community afford this waste of energy, this waste of man power, while babies are actually dying for want of food? The War Cabinet, by insisting on the necessitous qualification, is generally known to have the support of the Local Government Board, and to have over-ridden the desires of the Ministry of Food. Will the nation, fighting for the freedom of the world of the future, accept the War Cabinet's ungenerous interpretation of the needs of the youngest and most helpless of its population? The strength and social well-being of the race of to-morrow depend very directly upon the milk supply of to-day. Can the community afford to neglect the mothers and their babies any longer?

* Since this article was written Lord Rhondda has directed the Food Control Committees to put into operation, not later than January 21st, a scheme providing for priority in the distribution of milk for children, invalids, and others for whom an adequate supply of milk is a medical necessity. Priority may be given to all holders of priority tickets issued by the Local Food Control Committee. The supply of free or cheap milk is, however, still optional.

THE INSURANCE OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The following resolution has been sent to Lord Knutsford and Lord Sydenham by the Fabian Women's Group:—

"That the Executive Committee of the Fabian Women's Group strongly protests against Clause 22 of the National Health Insurance Bill now before Parliament giving to insured women a 'marriage benefit' of £2 on marriage. They consider that the payment of such "marriage benefit" will in no way be a provision for sickness and urge that, while the question of maternity remains within the scope of the Insurance Acts, it should be transformed into Maternity Benefit."

WORKING WOMEN IN POLITICS.

The Women's Labour League will hold their Annual Conference at Nottingham on January 21st and 22nd. The occasion has a special interest, for the chief business is to consider the new position created by the Reform Bill and the changes in the constitution of the Labour Party. These will be far-reaching, and the Executive's special report recommends the acceptance of a policy of absorption, the women's organisation becoming the women's section of a unified party. The resolutions on the agenda deal with a wide range of subjects from Peace and Food to Education, Housing and Widows' Pensions. The Chairman this year will be Mrs. Lowe, of Bermondsey.

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On this we are Agreed.

In several pages of despairing protest the last remaining Anti-Suffragists warn the House of Lords that if they endorse the opinion of the House of Commons about Women's Suffrage they will be encouraging Socialism, even "Red Socialism," and leading the way to revolution. When we read these protests we cannot help being reminded of how Kaiser Wilhelm long ago warned Europe in general, and Germany in particular, of the dangers of Socialism (we believe that he also characterised it as "red"), and offered them instead discipline, Kultur, devotion to his person and his line. For after careful study of all that the Anti-Suffragists have to say, we cannot help feeling that what they, like the Kaiser, are out against is not, in truth, Socialism, but democracy. Socialism has been variously interpreted; but whenever the word is seriously used (for other than vituperative purposes), it means some particular theory as to the distribution of wealth. It would obviously be impossible to argue that more women than men hold the theory, or any of the theories, that have been called Socialism; when, therefore, the Anti-Suffragists use the word in connection with the Representation of the People Bill, they must, we think, mean one of two things—either they mean that, as the majority of the people are poor, and suffer from the present system of distribution of wealth, any increase of the popular vote is likely to lead to a demand for a different system, or—and this we believe to be the truth—they mean by Socialism, not a theory about the distribution of wealth at all, but government of the people by the people for the people—in fact, democracy. As the Anti-Suffrage propaganda has gone on, in narrowing instead of widening circles, it has become more and more clear that there is not a man or a woman who now upholds it who is not fundamentally an anti-democrat. The Anti-Suffragists want people to be well and wisely cared for—by others. The demand of people to govern themselves they do not, cannot, will not, understand.

But what a moment in the history of our country and the world to choose for resisting democracy! Democracy in 1918 is not only an overwhelming force sweeping men and empires before it—it is the ideal for which the better part of the civilised world is sacrificing everything else that it holds most dear. Millions of lives have been consciously and willingly laid down, whole populations have suffered with almost unbelievable courage and constancy—for what? For "a world made safe for democracy," says President Wilson; for "the self-determination of peoples," says Mr. Lloyd George. And the ideals shadowed forth in these words are so dear to our struggling, suffering generation, that they have only to be uttered, to be greeted on all sides with a cry of consent. Men and women of different races and creeds and classes and political parties, some of whom could not agree with each other on anything else, who do not, perhaps, agree as to the application of the principles, who may not even agree as to ethics of fighting at all, can yet unite about this one thing. Democracy, government by consent, freedom; for large nations and for small, for rich and for poor, for men and for women, at home and abroad; that is what we want, that is an aim to live and die for; on that we are agreed.

The Representation of the People Bill is a step to that ideal democracy; and even if some unforeseen disaster were to befall it in the short remainder of its Parliamentary course, we know that the principles embodied in it must triumph. It is as vain for reactionaries to try and stand up against them as it is for Prussia of the Hohenzollerns to dream that she can control the world.

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The Representation of the People Bill in the House of Lords.

A PLEA FOR PEACE.

BY MRS. HENRY FAWCETT.

The following statement of the Women Suffragists' case against the referendum amendment to the Representation of the People Bill was sent to members of the House of Lords on January 8th:—

To-day the Representation of the People Bill has gone into Committee in the House of Lords. May I put some considerations before your Lordships to show that in the interests of the nation it is imperative that it should not be destroyed?

Criticisms of the Bill may be legion; to-day they must give way before the single argument—Necessity. The necessity is clear if we consider the problem before the country, the circumstances of the Bill, the facts as they are. After more than three years of fighting, after two changes of Government, with a Parliament that has already existed for seven years, it is essential for our Constitutional liberty that an appeal to the electors should be within the power of our rulers. War conditions, and the absence of our fighting men, have made our old Parliamentary register useless. Fresh registration on the old basis would be equally futile, and the country cannot be represented by Parliament without a new qualification for electors. Again and again in 1916 the Government tried to solve the problem of how to secure a vote to soldiers and munition workers without passing a Reform Bill. They failed. These failures resulted in the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform, of which the Representation of the People Bill is the triumphant issue. The Bill stands for the careful and prolonged deliberations of that body. It was supported in the House of Commons by the leaders of every political party, and was carried by an overwhelming majority of the House. It is recognised by the nation as an accepted fact, and its position as an agreed Reform Bill is unique. It is in full harmony, moreover, with the spirit and legislation of the great oversea dominions. What, then, would its destruction entail? The delay of Government business, the waste of Government time, the prevention of an appeal to the electorate, the instability of a Parliament that is not in a position to prove that it possesses the confidence of the country, the impotence of a nation that can dictate neither war terms nor peace terms, for the Bill is not only a war-essential, but a peace-essential. The destruction of the Bill would entail the loss of an unparalleled opportunity, and it would necessitate a fresh start. And what is there to be hoped for from a fresh start? Such a degree of unanimity on the vexed questions of Electoral Reform will never be reached again, and thus the destruction of the Bill would clearly be a national misfortune such as no true patriot could contemplate. I beg your Lordships, therefore, to consider the effect upon the Bill as a whole of any of the changes you contemplate.

In the Bill, Clause IV. stands out as a centre of dramatic interest. Like the whole of the Bill, this Clause has its rise in the history of our democratic institutions, and its sanction in the overwhelming vote of the House of Commons. Like the rest of the Bill, it has the active support of the Labour movement, and it also has the approval of such bodies as the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations and the National Liberal Federation. Like the whole Bill, too, it is already accepted by the country, and men and women alike are looking to its practical results.

It is said, however, by those who have long opposed this reform, that, unlike the rest of the Bill, this one clause should not be dealt with now. They urge that it is a breach of the party understanding, that the question has not been before the country. They assert that women do not themselves want to have votes; and to meet the situation they suggest that a referendum should be applied to this one clause of the Bill alone. They look—I trust, in vain—to the Hereditary House to stand between women and their enfranchisement.

For, again, what are the facts? It is true that there is a party truce; but Women's Suffrage has never been a party question. Ever since 1870, indeed, the Bills and amendments by which it was sought to introduce it have failed because of its very lack of party character. The present measure is not a Government Bill; it is better than that—it is a House of Commons Bill; and from this point of view its summary destruction by the Upper House must entail most serious consequences.

The contention that this question of Women's Suffrage has not been before the country hardly needs refutation. It has been, if anything, all too much before the country. Seldom has a political cause progressed in such a blaze of publicity. Few reforms had been so widely discussed before the war. The House of Commons itself had had a Suffragists' majority since 1897. At the last General Election 419 of the successful candidates were publicly pledged to support it, and the Government of the day was pledged to introduce a Reform Bill in which this matter should be left to the free vote of the House. Had that pledge been fulfilled, women would have been voters to-day; but the pledge was not fulfilled, and the Reform Bill of 1912 was withdrawn in consequence. Is this Reform Bill to be split on the same rock?

Again, it is said that women do not want the vote. There are, it is true, some individual women who do not, but there is hardly a single body of women in the country, whether organised for political, educational, industrial, social, or philanthropic purposes which does not support the demand, and the Press, the pulpit, and the stage bear constant testimony to my contention that in the country in general the battle is won. Suffrage Societies, in almost too great numbers, public meetings, demonstrations, and processions (in the days before the war), in almost too constant a succession, money, devotion, and sacrifice—everything, indeed, except the political power they have not got—has been expended by women upon this cause. For fifty years I have known the movement, and in all that long time I have known thousands and thousands of typical women, the ordinary home-keeping women of all classes, who are earnestly and seriously desiring their enfranchisement. Only those who work with the great body of Suffragists can estimate the serious intensity of their demand; but I am convinced that those who have experience among the different classes of women, or who care to know, can see that it is widespread.

It is from no fear of the result of a referendum on Women's Suffrage that I urge your Lordships not to adopt it, but because its introduction would inevitably destroy the Bill. The House of Commons, which carried Women's Suffrage by 385 votes to fifty-five, would not accept it, and the fact that the Speaker ruled its introduction into this Bill out of order, would hardly facilitate its progress. Strife between the two Houses would immediately result, and strife of a kind most dangerous to the political peace.

The proposal to introduce into the British Constitution the new principle of direct reference to the electorate is far more startling than Women's Suffrage itself, and it is one that must on its merits arouse the keenest controversy. It would raise far-reaching questions, and it is inconceivable that the House of Commons would at this moment accept it, particularly in the curious form of application to one single clause in an agreed Bill. In the resulting confusion, not only Women's Suffrage, but the whole of the Speaker's Compromise would perish; and it is difficult to suppose that this is not the intention of its supporters. For if, indeed, they had seriously intended to accompany the Reform Bill with the introduction of this new method of legislation, why do we find no reference to it in the Speaker's Conference Report? It is true that the proceedings of the Conference were private, and the proposal may have been mooted there; but if it was, it was there defeated, and its emergence now can only be with the object of causing friction, confusion, and delay.

I should like, if I may, to appeal to the wisdom of your Lordships not to provoke these needless storms. We must all recognise now that, with or without a referendum, Women's Suffrage is inevitable in the near future, and surely that situation makes it imperative to grant it now. The People's House has realised this, and from the point of view of the House of Lords is it good policy to convince the incoming women electors that the chief foes of their enfranchisement were found in the Hereditary Chamber?

After all, is it not the *dis*franchisement of women, rather than from their *en*franchisement, that we have most to fear? When the time of reconstruction comes we shall be, as Lord Curzon has truly said, at the beginning of a new epoch. To quote his words: "We shall have to deal then with questions

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that will shake . . . profoundly the whole machinery of the State . . . the relations of Capital and Labour; the part that female and male industry is to play in relation to each other in the industrial life of the future . . . education . . . health, housing . . . all these questions will brook no delay." Is it equitable, and is it wise, that problems such as these should be settled without the consent of the women they so intimately concern?

To take the industrial question alone, no one can contemplate without serious alarm the situation that must arise when the war is over. The Government has given pledges to Labour which will have to be redeemed; but to find a way of redeeming them without injustice to women, and without economic loss to the country, will be hard. Working women, many of them with widened responsibilities as widows with young families, are not willing that their interests should be bargained by Parliament elected by employers and Trade Unionists over which they have no control; they are not willing to be treated as a football in a game between Capital and Labour, with the Government acting as umpire; nor is it to the best interests of the country that they should be so cheated.

This is only one aspect of the question. Industrial problems, critical as they are, and the special interests of women, are, after all, only a part of the business of good government.

Looking at men and women in their ordinary daily work, and at the usual differences between their lives, we see that, on the whole, it falls to women to protect the weak, the very old, and the very young, to nurse the sick, and to guard the helpless. It is they and the homes they make that to a large extent keep alive in the world the spirit of mutual helpfulness and co-operation as opposed to competition, and in so far as this is true, I believe that the domestic experiences of women will be no bad preparation for the duties of citizenship. A mother's love is no bad schooling for a love of country, and our political life can hardly fail to be the better for this influence.

I appeal, therefore, to those members of the House of Lords who are faint-hearted to consider whether they need really fear their countrywomen, and I beg your Lordships to consider well before you throw down to the House of Commons a challenge that can lead to nothing more profitable than war, in circumstances when political peace is a national necessity.

This is a Representation of the People Bill. Why leave half the People out of it?

Life and Letters of Maggie Benson.*

"DEAREST 'MOTHER,'—Everything is 'all right' here. I hope this is the *right* thing to do about your 'letters,' but I 'know' I'm 'bound,' as Maclean says, to *do* something 'wrong.'

"Isn't *this* 'like Alice W——.' I don't know how to 'spell' that.

"Your *most* loving 'daughter,'

"*M.* 'Benson.'"

Thus Maggie, aged fifteen, in gentle ridicule of the diction of one of her friends. The contemporary of a girl of fifteen may be allowed to be a little childish, a little lacking in distinction of style, but such failings are less excusable in persons of full age who make books. Yet "The Life and Letters of Maggie Benson" has a certain savour of mediocrity because its subject never wholly puts away childish things, and its author uses words and words and words in a vain effort to tell us things—such as that his sister possessed intellectual force with a genius for friendship—and he leaves our imagination cold and our minds only half-convinced. And this is the more disappointing because in his "Prologue" he claims a future for the art of the "biography of personality" rather than of "notable achievement only." But the book is more than merely readable; its simplicity gives it some charm, and in the narrative certain points of interest stand out well. We find (*a*) Mrs. Benson; (*b*) vigour and freshness in Maggie's views about religion and religious circles; (*c*) her comradeship with the four-footed (as well as with children); (*d*) her life and work in Egypt; (*e*) Beth; (*f*) the tragedy in her life and the triumph in her death.

About Mrs. Benson. Throughout the Letters poignant phrases show us what the mother was to the child: "It's inconceivable to me how people get on who haven't you." "Oh, I do wsh I could have gone back to England with you. Never mind, I am, at any rate, your own daughter." The mother, for her part, tells us more of Maggie in a sentence than does her brother in half a volume:—

"Maggie was very good at using help. When she was writing the Venture of Faith, she could keep several people employed. It was like the Japanese plate trick. As many as seven volunteers could be kept going, and each revived with a smart touch when flagging."

Those who have read the Life of Heyn, or of Maggie, or of any other Benson, desire just a Benson Book called "Mrs. Benson and Her Children," by the mother, for the Benson family never really grows up, and she is for all time their mother, and they, perhaps, owe the best in them to her.

The excellent series of letters on religious problems addressed by Margaret to her cousin, S. A. McDowall, must be read consecutively for appreciation of their robustness of thought; but no reformer suing for life and liberty within the National Church ought to be ignorant of the following pronouncement made by this discreet and learned daughter of a great Archbishop of Canterbury:—

". . . . Oh, what a dreadful pity it is that the Clergy are like the Church of England—so "stodgy." The Dean gave us, years ago, when we were starting the S. Paul Association, the strongest advice not to put it under the clergy in any way; and we have been so glad of it ever since. I do believe the best plan with them is to begin a thing quite independently; then they wake up and see that something is going forward, and hurry up, fearing otherwise that they will get left out."

The connection between religion and animals is not perceived even by all animal lovers. Let them hear, then, Maggie's rebuke to her doubting cousin:—

"I don't see how anyone can make the future of animals a *difficulty*. The difficulty appears to me to be in our own incredulity. Why should he be so set on thinking that they *don't* go on existing? It seems to me it must be some impress of Latin races (who care little about animals) on our Christianity.

"Of course there is little about them in the Bible, but so is there very little about children, or any *definite* social question, or marriage. But what does that come to? 'Consider the birds—your heavenly Father made them'—'*lest one* of them is forgotten. . . .'"

The Beth (family nurse) motif recurs in several Benson books; and well that it does, for this is Beth:—

"Beth came to say good-night, and found me looking at the papers, and reproved me: 'You'll get thinking about it and not go to sleep.' 'Do *you?*' 'Yes, if I hear things and get thinking about them.' 'What sort of things?' 'If they are behaving so quarrelsome in Parliament, or bad people are killing each other.'"

And this:—

"I read a Daniel lesson with Beth the other Sunday; at the end she said she had never liked Daniel. 'Why not?' 'Oh, it was so dreadful she had never liked it even when she was a girl!' 'What did she like, then?' Oh, about the babies—Jesus Christ and John!' 'And Moses?' She was not sure of that. She was afraid Moses was rather ungrateful to Pharaoh's daughter who had brought him up. . . . Then I urged the Israelites hadn't much opportunity for being grateful, considering the way Rameses behaved. 'Yes,' she said, 'they was just as disagreeable one to another in them days as now.' To be disagreeable one to another is the worst condemnation."

The account of Margaret's wonderful Egyptian research work must be read in full. Alas for her that her sojourn in foreign parts meant banishment from the mother she loved! Over her life hung always a shadow of physical and of spiritual ill-health, and for a time it darkened to night; but at the last she passed away in sure and certain hope almost with the words upon her lips, "Eureka" (I have found) "God is in the world. He is love. It is all love."

A. H. W.

* By her brother, A. C. Benson. (Published by John Murray. 7s. 6d. net.)

OBITUARY.

MRS. CLEMENT SHORTER.

Mrs. Clement Shorter, who died in London last Sunday, was known to a large public, both in England and Ireland, under her maiden name of Dora Sigerson, as the writer of poetry which, though not highly ambitious, has great charm and genuine feeling. She was born in Dublin and inherited her literary abilities not only from her father, Professor George Sigerson, but from her mother, the author of several published poems. She married Mr. Clement Shorter in 1916, and since then has lived in London. Her earliest poems were published in various Irish journals, and her first volume of poems came out in 1894. This was followed by others in fairly rapid succession. Mrs. Shorter was most at home in the purely Irish ballad, and in the introduction to a collection of her poems George Meredith described her as "an Irishwoman writing from her heart of the legends of her country," but she did not by any means confine herself to Irish subjects, and has written also many simple little pieces of various kinds.

Correspondence.

CHILD WITNESSES IN POLICE COURTS.

MADAM,—We desire to call your attention to the manner in which discretionary powers are exercised by magistrates as to the attendance of women in courts under the provisions of the Children Act, 1908, according to which Act charges against children and young persons under 16 years of age must be heard in a special court, to which no member of the general public has access without the leave of the Court: while under Clause 114 of this Act the Bench has power to clear the Adult Court of "all or any persons" when "a child or young person is called as a witness in any proceedings in relation to an offence against or any conduct contrary to decency or morality."

The interpretation of these clauses varies with individual magistrates. Where there is a woman probation officer she is frequently in Court during the hearing to support the child through the ordeal of examination. The Justices of Leeds, Cambridge, York, Manchester, Birmingham, and other centres have made special provision for the attendance of women social workers in their Courts, and have spoken most appreciatively of the presence of responsible women during the trial of certain cases where girls and women have appeared as witnesses.

On the other hand, we have had the experience of the Hendon Women's Local Government Association, which some two years ago formed a Rota to watch cases locally in the interest of women and children. The members of the Rota were treated with consideration by the officials until June, 1917, when the Bench refused the quiet, polite request of a Rota representative to remain in the Adult Court during the hearing of a case of indecent assault of two little girls by an elderly man. The children's mother and the probation officer were also excluded from the Court; but, although there was no woman present, any man or lad was allowed to remain while these little girls gave their painful evidence. The magistrate apparently excluded women throughout the whole case, whereas the Children Act only confers discretionary power on magistrates to exclude any section of the public while a child is giving evidence.

Since the above incident occurred, a magistrate's order has refused the members of the Hendon Rota admission to the Children's Court. A copy of a letter written a year and a-half ago by the Justice's Clerk, stating that the Justices had no objection to representatives of the Hendon Women's Local Government Association attending the Children's Court, has been sent to the Bench, but a reply has been received stating "the Justices then and now decide to reserve to themselves the powers they possess under the provisions of the Children Act, 1908."

The Hendon Rota consists of middle-aged women, who have had the experience of wives, mothers, teachers or social workers. They are well known and have a record of social work behind them. No friction or unpleasantness has occurred and no reason has been given for treating such women in this summary manner, and preventing them from doing a useful piece of public work. When the Home Secretary has so recently circularised the Benches advising them to secure the services of voluntary women workers to help in the supervision of cases dealt with under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1907, is it either wise or expedient of magistrates thus to discourage the interest of public-spirited women?

Several societies interested in such cases have suggested that an amendment should be introduced into the Children Act which, while reserving to magistrates power to clear the Court of all persons or of all young persons, shall not allow the exclusion of women probation officers, or of women only, while a child is giving evidence. We trust this proposal will receive public support.

CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN.
Chairman of Police Court Rota S/Committee.
(Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.)

THE PAYMENT OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS.

MADAM,—Events of considerable importance to professional women are taking place in the journalistic world. The Institute of Journalists, a body which includes men and women journalists on the same footing, and the President of which is now Mr. Garvin, has lately made certain recommendations with regard to the salaries which the Institute recognises as the lowest that should be paid to journalists of certain degrees of experience and employed upon papers of certain grades. With these recommendations or with any criticism upon them I need not trouble your readers. The point is that the Institute has taken action boldly on behalf of members of both sexes, whose gratitude and support it has rightly earned.

The proposed scale of minimum salaries for men and women journalists alike has been submitted to the Newspaper Proprietors' Association, and it is to the reply of this Association (published in the *Institute Journal* of December) that I wish to call the attention of Suffragists. The Council of the Newspaper Proprietors' Association fixes a minimum scale of its own, modifying the terms in consideration of the character of the newspapers (daily, Sunday, &c.), and of the work required from the journalists (editorial, reporting, &c.). These details also need not be discussed here. But I come to my second point which is that the Council of the Newspaper Proprietors' Association, after drafting a scale of minimum salaries on the hypothesis that it is appropriate to the work done, refuses to include women journalists in the scale it has fixed. The Council remarks under the heading "Women Journalists": "In view of the diversity in the experience, knowledge, and duties of women journalists, the committee feel unable at the present time to make any recommendations for their inclusion in this scale."

The Newspaper Proprietors' Association in attempting to prevent women journalists from claiming the rates of minimum payment it has proposed for certain classes of work, has done that which, if successful, would inflict an injury, both upon women and upon the journalistic profession. For were it possible (which, happily it is not) that the Institute of Journalists could acquiesce in any such sex-differentiation between its members, the women in the Institute would find themselves in the intolerable position of belonging to a professional body pledged not to accept payment below a certain scale and yet in their own case prevented by reason of their sex from carrying out the terms of their organisation.

MARGARET HEITLAND.
Fellow of the Institute of Journalists.

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THE SHORTAGE OF MILK.

MADAM,—The question of the shortage of milk upon which your correspondent, H. J. Baylis has written to you in last week's COMMON CAUSE, is one of the most complex, as well as one of the most important, of all questions connected with our present food difficulties. The remedy she suggests, namely, to refuse to eat meat, would not necessarily result in an increased milk supply.

The present scarcity of milk is due chiefly to the following causes :—

(1.) Owing to the shortage of tonnage it has been impossible to bring into the country sufficient of the feeding stuffs which are essential to maintain the milk supply during the winter months. Such supplies of feeding stuffs as have been available have cost three times the pre-war prices.

(2.) Labour has been very scarce and dear (in comparison with pre-war rates) and on that account transport and distribution have also been extremely difficult and costly.

(3.) Good dairy cows are now fetching anything from £50 to £75 each, and the risk of loss on capital expended is greatly increased by the scarcity of expert milkers and cowmen; an inexperienced person can easily cause £50 worth of damage to a dairy herd, besides reducing the milk output.

The net result of the above is that milk at the present wholesale fixed price of 1s. 9d. per Imperial gallon cannot be produced during the winter months at a profit to farmers.

It is hoped that the conversion of large areas of pasture land into tillage may help to secure an increased milk supply for another winter.

I quote the following expert opinion: "A decreased area of grass-land may reduce the supply of summer milk, but it is not during the summer months that difficulty is experienced in securing milk. The critical period for the consumer of milk is during the winter, when dairy farmers have been accustomed to rely largely upon purchased (imported) foods for feeding their cows. The existing shortage of milk is chiefly due to the scarcity of concentrated feeding-stuffs, and this scarcity will not diminish as the war goes on. Under these conditions it will be necessary for dairy farmers to have recourse to home-grown foods for maintaining their milk supply during the winter months; and the farmer who has a proportion of his land under tillage crops—such as cabbage, kale, turnips, mangolds, and beans—will be much better off than the farmer who is entirely dependent upon hay and purchased feeding-stuffs.

"From the point of view of milk production, an acre of mangolds, for example, is worth three times as much as an acre of meadow hay."

The information which Local Food Committees are now obtaining seems likely to show in many cases that the milk difficulty is not so much a difficulty of supply, as a difficulty of distribution. In many cases it will, I think, be found that tradesmen are favouring their well-to-do customers, and it is the small consumers who are feeling the pinch most.

Local Committees have, however, very wide powers, and they are dealing with the matter, and no doubt before long they will succeed in compelling an equitable distribution. Well-authenticated cases of refusal to supply milk to nursing mothers, or to mothers of young children, should at once be reported to Local Food Committees.

Thanks to the action of the Ministry of Food, supplies of milk food (Glaxo, Trufood, and Cow and Gate brands) have been secured for all Infant Welfare Centres. These foods are much better for small infants than the ordinary brands of tinned milk, and working-class mothers will, I hope, make use of these facilities for obtaining them.

HELENA AUERBACH.

THE TEACHER.

MADAM,—Why this pessimistic attitude on the part of Carol Ring (such a jubilant name she has, too!) and "An Elementary School Teacher?" If the lot of a teacher in our board schools is of such "sordid case," I am surprised that any woman should take up this work at all! My most intimate friend in the large town where I live happens to be an elementary school teacher. She has a large class of little boys. Her salary is not quite so high as that of an assistant high school mistress, but has been substantially increased by war bonus additions of late, and is certainly enough to live on comfortably. She loves her work and her pupils, and though a sufferer from throat delicacy would not give up teaching if she could do so. So far from being lonely out of school, her life in a Hostel for Women is full of interests, and the friendships she forms there are many.

Judging from my friend's unvarying cheerfulness and pleasure in her work, an elementary teacher's life may be an enviable one. Her work is no "blind-alley occupation" but the labour of love to which she dedicates her life.

"A HAPPY HIGH-SCHOOL MISTRESS."

FACING ALTERNATIVES.

MADAM,—I am sorry that circumstances have prevented me from replying sooner to the two questions of your correspondent C. C. Osler, in THE COMMON CAUSE of December 21st. To the first I answer that I recognise that considerations of health and of the welfare of the children often make it necessary to limit families. To the second I answer that, in my opinion, the only right way to do this is by abstention from physical intercourse for as long a time as is necessary. The statement that this self-restraint cannot be practised without pain and injury, and *therefore* should not be attempted, is one which cannot be allowed to pass without challenge. The experience of many devoted husbands and wives would seem to show that it is not injurious and need not be painful. To most of us marriage is something more than a physical thing, and the abstention from physical union does not necessarily mean that for true lovers there is nothing left. But even supposing that abstention *were* both painful and physically injurious, this would not prove that it might not, in some cases, be right to practise it. We do many things for conscience sake and for the sake of the family which are painful and even physically injurious to ourselves. All self-control is in some degree painful, few acts of service and devotion can be carried out without some risk of physical injury to those who do them. I doubt whether a life of extreme self-restraint is even as injurious to the individual as more artificial methods of limiting families, but even if in some cases it is so, it is worth while for individuals to risk it for the sake of one another and of the race.

My opinion, therefore, is that married couples should have as many children as they can reasonably hope to bring up to health and happiness, and that when forced by consideration for the children or each other to limit their families they should do so by self-restraint.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
MISS VIOLET EUSTACE.
MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary).
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
MRS. AUERBACH.

Secretary (pro. tem.):
MISS GLADYS DAVIDSON.

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, West Cent., London.

"The Common Cause."

Readers and friends of THE COMMON CAUSE have heard with deep regret of Mrs. Edmund Garrett's long illness. Mrs. Garrett has now felt obliged to resign the Editorship of THE COMMON CAUSE, and Miss I. B. O'Malley, who has been Acting Editor since June, has been appointed Editor.

Change of Address.

The new offices at 62, Oxford Street, W. 1, are a great improvement on the old as far as light and air are concerned. If it is, in some ways, a loss to be at a greater distance from Westminster: it is a real gain to be on the fifth floor of a new building, and to have a fine view over the roofs of Oxford Street and Tottenham Court Road. It seems singularly appropriate that the offices should be situated at the corner of Rathbone Place.

New Secretary of the N.U.W.S.S.

This week the office will welcome Miss Gladys Davidson, the new Secretary, who will enter upon her duties on Friday, when Miss Deneke, who has been Acting Secretary *pro tem.*, returns to her usual work.

Meetings of the Executive Committee.

By a resolution of the Executive Committee the dates for meetings have been changed from the first and third Thursdays of the week to the second and fourth Thursdays. The dates of Sub-committees follow the change automatically.

The Women Citizen's Diary.

The 1918 issue of the Diary shows several new features. The Directory of Useful Addresses has now been classified under headings, which should add greatly to its practical value, such as Suffrage, Political, Non-Party, War Agencies, Maternity and Infant Welfare, and other divisions. The List of Important Dates has been revised on a similar plan. The House of Commons List shows how members voted at the Reform Bill of 1917, and an index to the information is included. The leather copies have been sold out, but cloth copies may still be had (price 1s. 6d., postage 1d.). Societies which have not yet had copies are urged to make an early application.

Dr. Elsie Inglis.

Among the many messages of sympathy received on the death of Dr. Inglis are the following :—

Resolution passed at the Executive Committee Meeting of the Women's International League, Thursday, December 21st, 1917 :—

"That the Executive Council of the Women's International League desires to convey to the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies its profound regret at the loss to this nation and to humanity at large in the death of Dr. Elsie Inglis.

"They believe that the value of Dr. Inglis' heroic example in the relief of suffering and in her absolute selfless courage in the face of every danger and difficulty will be a constant inspiration to men and women alike in every country where her story spreads."

At a meeting of Committee held on Monday, December 10th, the following resolution was unanimously passed :—

"The John o' Groats Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. desire to express their deep grief at the loss of Dr. Elsie Inglis whom they had the honour of entertaining in Thurso some years ago, and whose noble life will always be an inspiration to the women of Britain."

46 Generals and 9 Admirals!

Impressive Facts about "Pelmanism."

The remarkable extent to which the new movement—Pelmanism—is being adopted by officers and men affords impressive reading.

There could, indeed, be no finer or more convincing evidence of its intensely *practical* value than the fact that over 15,000 British officers and men (Naval and Military) are studying it whilst on active service. This includes forty-six Generals and nine Admirals! All correspondence being confidential, no names can, of course, be published.

From time to time the announcements made by the Pelman Institute have included some of the more interesting letters from officers at the Front or with the Grand Fleet, giving more or less precise particulars of the direct benefits accruing to them from the adoption of Pelman principles. Promotion, distinction, increased efficiency, a keener zest for work: self-confidence, individuality, judgment, decision: a perfect memory (most valuable of qualities in this super-scientific war), concentration—these are some of the benefits daily recorded. Small wonder that a distinguished General writes that "the value of the Pelman Course can hardly be exaggerated." His letter, with others of special interest, will be found below.

Business and professional men are equally appreciative. The benefits of Pelmanism are so clearly apparent (and so invariable) that scepticism and prejudice have vanished. The facts recorded by *students of the Course themselves*, dispose of all doubt or question as to the value of "Pelmanism."

If there is a reader of THE COMMON CAUSE who has not yet received a copy of *Mind and Memory*, in which the principles of Pelmanism are explained at length, and in which a synopsis of the Course is given, he (or she) should write for this *brochure* to-day. It will be sent, *gratis and post free*, together with a full reprint of *Truth's* outspoken report on the work of the Pelman Institute, upon application to the address given at the foot of this page.

A Distinguished General's Verdict.

One of the most emphatic endorsements that the Pelman Course has ever received comes from a distinguished General with the B.E.F. He says:—

"The value of the Pelman Course can hardly be exaggerated. I agree it should be nationalized."

Following upon the remarkable letters recently published in which Colonels, Majors, and Captains (both Army and Navy) have attributed their promotion, *and, in some cases, their distinctions*, to Pelmanism, the General's pronouncement is of special significance.

For the benefit of those readers of THE COMMON CAUSE who have not already seen the letters referred to, they are reprinted here.

"The Unsoldierlike Sub."

The first is from a Captain with the B.E.F. We give his letter in its entirety:—

"I should like to call your attention to the facts of the story of my Pelman Course.

"When I began I was looked upon with disfavour by the C.O. of my battalion at home as being a sleepy, forgetful, and unsoldierlike sub. When I began your Course my star began to rise—I had the ability, but had not been able to use it. I left the Home battalion with the C.O.'s recommendation as being the best officer he had had for more than a year, and came to France.

"I was then appointed as a second-lieutenant to command a company over the heads of four men with two 'pips,' and have now three stars and an M.C.

"That I was able to make use of my abilities so successfully I attribute entirely to the Pelman System."

Another Officer suggests that the announcements made by the Pelman Institute err on the side of modesty. He writes:—

"One great point in favour of your system which, if I may say so, you do not make enough of in your advertisements is the cumulative benefit accruing.

"As far as I can see, once having got on the right track and rigidly following the System, there should be no limit to the ultimate mental capacity obtained."

Each letter supplies its own adequate comment. Take the epistle of a Lieutenant-Colonel, who, writing from Salonika, says:—

"As a direct consequence of Lesson Two I have got a step in rank."

There is, in fact, a bewildering mass of direct personal testimony to the value of the Course from every rank and from every unit of the British Army and Navy.

It is not always promotion that is the object of those who take up the Pelman Course. Here is a letter which presents another phase:—

"The Course has prevented me becoming slack and stagnating during my Army life—this is a most virulent danger, I may add. It inculcates a clear, thorough, courageous method of playing the game of Life—admirably suited to the English temperament, and should prove *moral* salvation to many a business man. 'Success,' too, would follow—but I consider this as secondary."

A Business Woman's Experience.

Those who have studied Pelmanism are invariably enthusiastic in their praise of it. A London business woman, for example, writes: "I cannot speak too highly of Pelmanism, which is teaching me to use my abilities, and is giving me a confidence I never hoped to have. Previous to taking up the Course my salary was £125—it has now been raised to £250."

"Even as a purely intellectual pleasure," writes another woman, "it is most fascinating and well repays the outlay."

Previous announcements in these columns have included letters from business and professional men and women who had *doubled* and *trebled* their incomes by the adoption of Pelmanism.

Easily Followed by Post.

To the uninitiated it may well appear impossible that such remarkable results can be attained in a short time as a consequence of half-an-hour a day for a few weeks spent in studying lessons. Yet it is the bare truth, and it should help readers to realise what a tremendous force for personal betterment "Pelmanism" is.

As a reader of the Course recently wrote: "If people only knew, the doors of the Pelman Institute would be literally besieged by eager applicants."

Following the intensely interesting lessons and exercises the students of Pelmanism rapidly develop a brilliant memory, strong Will Power, complete power of Concentration, quick Decision, sound Judgment, an ability to reason clearly, to Converse attractively, to Organise and Manage, and to conduct their work and social duties with Tact, Courage, Self-Confidence, and Success. All mental weaknesses and defects are on the other hand eliminated—such as Mind Wandering, Forgetfulness, Weak Will, Aimlessness, Bashfulness, Self-consciousness, the "Worry Habit," &c.

"Truth's" Verdict.

It is the constant receipt of hundreds of letters like the foregoing which justify—and more than justify—every claim made for Pelmanism, and also *Truth's* famous verdict that:—

"The Pelman System places the means of progress within the reach of everyone. It does not provide a brain for the brainless, but it does provide everyone with the means of making the best use of the faculties with which Nature has endowed him and bring them to full fruition."

Over 250,000 Men and Women.

The Pelman Course has already been followed by over 250,000 men and women. **It is directed through the post, and is simple to follow.** It takes up very little time. It involves no hard study. It can be practised anywhere, in the trenches, in the office, in the train, in spare minutes during the day. And yet in quite a short time it has the effect of developing the mind, just as physical exercise develops the muscles, of increasing your personal efficiency and thus doubling your all-round capacity and income-earning power.

A full description of the Pelman Course is given in *Mind and Memory*, a free copy of which (together with *Truth's* special supplement on "Pelmanism") will be sent post free to all readers of THE COMMON CAUSE who send a post card to the Pelman Institute, 177, Wenham House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C. 1. (ADVT.)

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N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

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Founded by the Scottish Federation of the N.U.W.S.S.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, for much new work is being undertaken, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H., Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

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*Miss E. H. Lang	10	0	0
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*Mrs. Harley (Australia) ...		11	0
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Anonymous	5	0	0
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*Staff of Kinnoull School, per Miss E. W. R. Alison, Hon. Treas. Perth W.S.S.		10	4
George D. Gibson, Esq.	20	0	0
*Edinburgh W.S.S., per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas.: Printing and Kindred Trades Fed. (£14 14s. 6d.), Edinburgh Women Medical Students (£1 1s.), Miss Knox (for Serbian Prisoners' Fund) (5s.)—£16 0s. 6d., less Serbian Prisoners of War Fund 5s.	15	15	6
*Gloucester W.S.S., per Miss Ella Walrond, Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treas., to continue "Gloucester" bed, Royaumont	31	0	0
*Collection taken at the United Intercessory Service in Ladyloan U.F. Church, for the S.W.H., per A. A. Symon, Esq.		5	11
*Hull W.S.S., per Miss Hyde, Hon. Sec.	3	10	8
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Messrs. Portland Forge Co. Ltd.	2	0	3
*Sir R. Rowand Anderson ...	3	0	0
*Mrs. Nicol, to continue "Newington Cottage" bed, Royaumont	25	0	0
*Birkenhead and Dist. W.S.S., per Miss Mary E. Dalby, Hon. Treas.: Monthly subs. (5s.), Mrs. Pagan (5s.), Christmas Offering—Miss M. R. New (2s. 6d.), Miss Margery New (2s. 6d.), Miss Hilda New (2s. 6d.) (to continue "Birkenhead" bed, Royaumont		17	6
*Glasgow and West of Scotland W.S.S. Joint Com., per Miss M. C. Morrison, Hon. Treas., December dons.: First instal. towards £300 Motor Ambulance, from the Teachers and Scholars of Bearsden Schools, per Hugh Primrose, Esq. (£266 17s.); *Mid and Upper Cowal Com., per Mrs. Graham, Sale of Goods—£50 for upkeep of "Mid and Upper Cowal" bed, £50 General Funds—(£100); *Miss A. McD. Teacher, for upkeep of "Elizabeth Teacher" bed (£50); *The Misses Morrison, for upkeep of "Ruadhsgeir" bed (£50); *Renfrew Flag Day, per Mrs. Brown (£45); *Staff and Students, Glasgow, West of Scotland College of Domestic Science, per Miss Melvin and Miss Muir, further towards upkeep of two beds for six months (£37); *Queen Margaret College Students' Union Assoc., for upkeep of bed, per Miss V. M. C. Roberton (£25); *Staff and Pupils of Laurel Bank School, for upkeep of "Laurel Bank" bed (£25); Concert at Newton Mearns, per Miss Armour (£23 15s.); British Women's Temperance Assoc., Meeting and Bring and Buy Sale at Largs, per Miss Rose (£20 5s.); *Miss F. M. Robinson (£11 5s.); Mrs. David Sloan, Collection at Drawing-room Meeting (£10 17s.); *Mrs. Pettigrew (£10); *In Memory of Matthew and Struthers Findlay (£10); *Miss Stephen (£10); *"M. B. and M. G. B.," Ayr (£10); *Ayr W.S.S., per Mrs. Alexander—Mrs. Abbott £5, Members of Ayr W.S.S. £3 3s. 6d.—(£8 3s. 6d.); *Anonymous, Lanark, for the Hospital for Tubercular Serbs (£5); St. Andrews Ambulance Assoc., per Wellwood R. Ferguson, for Ortho. Dept. (£4 14s. 9d.); *Shawlands Parish Church Ladies' Work Party, per Miss Margaret Morrison (£3); James Winning, Esq. (£2 2s.); Miss Agnes Granger (£2 2s.); Miss Watson (£2 2s.); *Meatless Days (£2 0s. 7d.); *Lenzie W.S.S., per Miss Duff (£2); Peter Latta, Jun., Esq. (£2); Collected by the Misses Katherine and Marian Gordon (£2); Collection at Band of Hope Entertainment, per Miss M. MacKinnon (£1 16s. 6d.); Nursing and Domestic Staff of Coathill Hospital, per Miss Strang (£1 10s.); Miss Hislop, per Miss Dunlop, for Ortho. Dept. (£1 10s.); Pollok Street Church Women's Guild, collection at meeting, per Mrs. Stewart (£1 8s.); Mrs. Anderson (collecting box) (£1 4s.); Anonymous (£1 1s.); "M. A." (for the Serbians) (£1); A Langside Whist Drive (£1); "A Friend" (£1); Miss Riddell (£1); *Miss Margaret Morrison (£1); "J. D. M." (£1); St. Columba's, Battie Street, Mothers' Meeting, per Miss C. Birrel (10s.); *Mrs. Pryor (10s.); Miss Knox (10s.); The Rev. T. H. Cook, per Miss Rose (5s.); Miss Murray (5s.), Miss Rankin (1s.). *Workmen's Scheme.*—Messrs. Thomas McLintock & Co. (£25); *Employees Messrs. Yarrow & Co. Ltd., towards upkeep of "Sheila" bed (£12 10s.); *Employees Messrs. John Lyle & Co. Ltd. (£10 10s.); *Employees Messrs. Wm. Simons & Co. Ltd. (£9 11s. 6d.); *Employees Messrs. Gauldie & Gillespie (£5 0s. 6d.); Messrs. Thomson & Mathieson, for Ortho. Dept. (£5); *Employees Messrs. Wm. Beattie Ltd. (£3 7s.); *Employees Messrs. Stewarts & Lloyds Ltd. (£3 3s.); *Employees Messrs. Wm. Martin, Sons & Co. (£3 3s.); *Employees Messrs. Campbell & Calderwood (£3); Employees Messrs. John McGregor & Sons (£3); *Employees Messrs. D. Lockhart & Sons (£2 2s.); *Employees Messrs. Cassel Cyanide Co. Ltd. (£2); *Messrs. A. L. Scott & Sons (£1 1s.); Messrs. Parsons & Co., for Ortho. Dept. (£1 1s.); Messrs. McCaig, Gilchrist & Co., for Ortho. Dept. (£1 1s.); Messrs. Wm. Cooper & Nephews (£1 1s.); *Firm and Employees, The Dennistown Forge Co. (£1 1s.); *Messrs. Scottish Speedwell Co. Ltd. (£1); *Employees Messrs. Alexander Jack & Co. Ltd. (13s.); Messrs. Thomas Allan & Co. Ltd., for Ortho. Dept. (10s.); Messrs. McNeill & Sloan (6s.)	851	15	4
*Part proceeds of Ballintuin's Free Gift Sale, per Miss M. A. Macdonald, to continue "Strathardle" bed, Salonica	77	0	0
"A St. Andrew's Day Gift" from St. Andrew's Society, Montevideo, Uruguay, per Mrs. L. Griffiths-Jones, Hon. Treas. Scottish Women's Red Cross Soc., Montevideo ...	15	0	0
Rev. James and Mrs. Patrick...	1	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Maclay	5	0	0
Anonymous	2	2	0
*Rev. David M. W. Laird ...	3	0	0
*Lady Ardwall, for "Moray Place" bed, American Unit...	3	0	0
*Miss Helena M. Yates		6	0
*Proceeds of a Sale held by the Assoc. of Women Graduates of the University of Glasgow, per Miss Margaret H. Cunningham, Hon. Treas., for upkeep of the X-Ray Apparatus supported by the Graduates	147	0	0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, Organiser S.W.H., Greenock (details in next week's list)	135	9	11
	£276,672	7	9

* Denotes further donations.

ERRATUM NOTE.—Miss J. Moston, Bath, per Miss M. E. Dalby, Storeton Road, Oxton, to continue "Mary" Bed in list for week ending December 27th, should read Miss J. W. Owston.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Paisley" (Corsica, further 6 months)	Paisley W.S.S., per Miss Mary E. Todd, Hon. Treas.
"Gloucester" (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Gloucester W.S.S., per Miss Ella Walrond.
"Newington Cottage" (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Mrs. Nicol, Edinburgh.
"Mid and Upper Cowal" (further 1 year)	Glasgow W.S.S., per Miss Morrison.
"Elizabeth Teacher" (Royaumont, further 1 year)	Glasgow W.S.S., per Miss Morrison.
"Ruadhsgeir" (Royaumont, further 1 year)	Glasgow W.S.S., per Miss Morrison.
"Queen Margaret College Students' Union Association" (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Glasgow W.S.S., per Miss Morrison.
"Glasgow, West of Scotland College of Domestic Science" (Salonica, further 6 months)	Glasgow W.S.S., per Miss Morrison.
"Laurel Bank" (Salonica, further 6 months)	Glasgow W.S.S., per Miss Morrison.
"Sheila" (Royaumont, further three months)	Glasgow W.S.S., per Miss Morrison.
"Strathardle" (Salonica, further one year)	Per Miss M. A. Macdonald, Blairgowrie.

Serbian Prisoners of War Fund.

NINTH LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to November 29th, 1917	284	9	1
Further donations received to December 31st, 1917:—			
Mrs. Somerville, per Mrs. McDiarmid	5	0	
Miss Knox, per Edinburgh W.S.S.		5	0
Miss Handyside		1	0
	£285	19	1

EQUIPMENT NEEDED.

The Equipment Committee have completely exhausted their stock of the following articles: Woollen and flannelette pyjamas and day shirts; woollen vests and pants; socks and bed-socks. Several hundred are required for immediate dispatch to the American Unit in Macedonia. Large or small donations of those goods forwarded to The Equipment Secretary, Scottish Women's Hospitals, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, will be gratefully acknowledged.

London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

DONATIONS AND COLLECTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	52,713	9	10
DECEMBER, 1917.			
A few Old Girls of Leytonstone High School (don.)		15	0
A. and M. (don.)		10	0
American Collection, per Miss Burke	2,000	0	0
Askes' Hatcham School for Girls, beds I. and II.	50	0	0
Baird, Miss (St. Andrew's Day Fund) (don.)	5	0	0
Barclay, Miss (St. Andrew's Day) (don.)	5	0	0
Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen Women's Suffrage, per Mrs. Clennell	1	1	0
British School of Archæology in Egypt, per Mrs. Flinders Petrie	33	17	4
Cameron, Miss L. T. (St. Andrew's Day Fund)	1	5	0
Coates', Mrs., Meeting (South Kensington Suffrage Soc.) (collection)	13	11	0
Collecting Card No. 19, per Miss Meiklejohn		8	0
Collecting Card No. 44, per Miss McFarlane		10	0
Collecting Cards Nos. 61 and 62, per Miss J. Boney		12	0
Concert Party, Hindhead, per Miss Gunn		10	11
den Tex Bondt, C. J., Esq. ...		10	0
Dunlop, Miss E. L.		3	0
Dunne, Miss Hetty		1	5
Eastbourne Meeting, per The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield		30	10
Flügel, Mrs. C. (St. Andrew's Day Fund)		10	0
Further donations, Mrs. Claude Beddington's meeting, Hove, per The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield		12	12
Hinde, Mrs. (monthly don.) ...			5
Hue Williams, F., Esq. (don.)		2	2
Kilgour, Miss E. C. (St. Andrew's Day Fund)		2	0
Leytonstone High School, 3 Girls, Form V.a			5
Leytonstone High School, Miss E. Wakefield, Form V.c ...		1	4
Leytonstone High School Meeting (collection)		2	8
Login, Miss Ethel			2
Login, Miss H. M....		2	2
McLeod, Admiral (St. Andrew's Day Fund)		3	3
Monteath, R. G., Esq. (St. Andrew's Day Fund)		10	0
Mussourie Women's Suffrage Society		53	0
Pielster, Per Mrs. (collection)		3	13
Pupils of Putney High School, per Miss Curwen		2	2
Putney Secondary School, per Miss Curwen (collection) ...		5	0
Shaw, Mrs. Henry (don.) ...			10
Syer, Alfred, Esq. (don.) ...		5	5
The College, Harrogate (bed)...		12	10
The Kuala Lumpar Rubber Co. (don.)		20	0
The Three Arts Club, Meeting (collection)...		2	1
The Women's Relief Corps, Alberta (don.)		20	16
W. A. B. (St. Andrew's Day Fund)		10	0
Waley, Mrs. P. S. (don.) ...		10	0
Whitelands Training College (collection)		1	16
	£55,085	11	8

ERRATUM NOTE.—£2 10s. entered last month as from Highgate and St. Pancras should have been Highgate and Islington.

COMMUNAL KITCHENS.

At Islington Town Hall, last Monday, a conference was held of women representing various religious, political, and social organisations in the borough, to discuss the best means of promoting food economy among the inhabitants. Several speakers urged the need for communal kitchens all over London to be opened at once, before the food shortage grows more serious, and the chairman said that such kitchens should be provided not only for the poor but for the middle classes, who will need them when there is such a scarcity of foodstuffs that they will hardly go round unless they are cooked in this wholesale way.

In a southern suburb of London where a communal kitchen has been opened, it is being freely used by middle-class people as well as by those who are less well off, and it should be a very great benefit to women who are doing either paid or voluntary work and attempting to run their own homes as well.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

JANUARY 11.

Bradford—Meeting for Members at Office—Speaker: Mrs. Thoday, on "The Future Work of the National Union." 7.30 p.m.

Chester—Members' Meeting, Haswell's Café, 172, Foregate Street—Speaker: Miss Parker—subject: The Education Bill. 3 p.m.

JANUARY 12.

Wokingham—A Jumble Sale will be held at Montague House—Proceeds to be given to the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Reading Day Nurseries. 2.30 p.m.

JANUARY 14.

Birmingham—Saltley Wesleyan Church—Mrs. Ring. 8 p.m.

JANUARY 18.

Edinburgh—"At Home," 40, Shandwick Place. 4.30 p.m.

LONDON UNITS OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS (N.U.W.S.S.).

JANUARY 12th.—Mrs. Park, 92, Fellows Road, Hampstead—Speaker: Hon. Evelina Haverfield. 8.30 p.m.

JANUARY 14th.—The Gables, Kingston-on-Thames—Speaker: Hon. Evelina Haverfield. 3.5 p.m.

JANUARY 18th.—Tiffin Girls' School, Kingston—Speaker: Miss Watson. 2.15 p.m.

ERRATA.—In last week's issue, in the account of Dr. Garrett Anderson's Memorial Service, "The Scottish Women's Hospitals were represented by," &c., should read "The London Units, Scottish Women's Hospitals, were represented by."

In the account of the Serbo-Croat Art, "Scottish Women's Hospitals Executive were 'At Home,'" should read "London Units of Scottish Women's Hospitals were 'At Home.'"

At the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Girton College Roll, held in London, on January 5th, the following resolution was passed: "That this meeting desires to put on record its grateful appreciation of the courageous and broad-minded University sermon, preached at Great St. Mary's Church, Cambridge, by the Rev. Dr. Bethune-Baker, Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, on Sunday, November 4th, advocating the admission of women to the degrees and membership of the University, and that a letter of thanks be sent to the preacher."

At the close of the meeting a collection was made on behalf of the Girton and Newnham Colleges War Hospital, which amounted to £15 3s. 0d.

At the International Women's Franchise Club, on Saturday afternoon, January 12th, at 4 o'clock, Mr. Simpson will speak on "Australia and its Opportunities for Women." This will be the first of a series of "Discussion Teas," which will be held every Saturday at 4 p.m. till further notice.

BUY NATIONAL WAR BONDS.

Many women are considering the question of how much money they can afford to invest in the new £5 Bonds that the Government have just issued and will be glad to know that by investing through a good Life Assurance Office they can purchase a very much larger amount than they are able to pay for at once.

For instance, for every £100 War Bond yielding at maturity in 1927 £105, a woman of 30 need pay only £9 5s. 7d. now and nine further annual payments of the same amount (£92 15s. 10d. in all), thus participating in this magnificent Government security whilst subscription for it remains open. Should she die before the ten payments are completed the full £100 Bond becomes at once the property of her representative, who has nothing further to pay.

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for WOMEN WORKERS
NURSES, MUNITION MAKERS, GARDENERS, Etc.
Adequate support WITHOUT bones.
Made in two qualities to customers' own measurements.
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Thick, Warm Hand spun and Hand-Knitted Socks for Tommy, 3/- pair. Carriage paid.
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ALL BRITISH.
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One insertion:	£	s.	d.	*13 or more insertions:*	£	s.	d.
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Quarter Page	2	10	0	Quarter Page	2	5	0
Per Inch (wide col.)	10	0		One-Eighth p.	1	2	6
Narrow column:—				Per Inch (wide col.)	9	0	
Per Column	8	7	6	,, (narrow col.)	6	0	
,, Inch -		6	6				

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40	3	0	8	6	16	0

All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

PUBLIC LECTURE at Steinway Hall, Lower Seymour Street, Wednesday, JANUARY 16TH, at 8.15 p.m.

Mr. D. M. DUNLOP on "The Path of Knowledge." *Admission Free.*

EDUCATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
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DEGREE COURSES IN ARTS AND SCIENCE
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SCIENTIFIC INSTRUCTION IN HYGIENE.
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Course of Public Lectures is given at 11, Tavistock Square, on Tuesday Evenings recommencing Tuesday, Jan. 22nd, 1918. For particulars, apply Hon. Dean Mrs. Mackenzie, M.A.: Tutor, Miss Margaret Frodsham, B.Sc.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Home School on Progressive Thought lines. Large garden, cricket field, sea bathing; all exams. Special care given to backward and delicate girls.—Principal: Miss Richardson, B.A.

[Continued on page 508

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All Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria," **and made payable to: The Hon. Treasurer, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.**

Continued from page 507)

THE SOUTH LONDON HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN

South Side, Clapham Common, S.W. 4. (80 Beds.)
A General Hospital for Women and Children officered by Medical Women.

PROBATIONERS are received at the age of 19 years or in exceptional circumstances at the age of 18. Certificate given on satisfactory completion of two years' course. Short periods of training can be arranged for intending Health Visitors.

For full particulars of Training, Salary, etc., apply to the Matron.

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TWO SISTERS, friends, or separately; Working-Housekeeper or Lady, immediately; plain cooking, work modern convenient house; boy boots, coal. Experienced, strong. £30-£35, rising. Lady-Nurse or Nurse, thoroughly experienced infants and small children; strong; needlewoman. £40-£50.—Moir, Blue Lane House, Limpsfield, Surrey.

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